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Nato keeps a firm eye on Poland

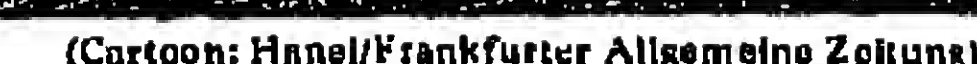
primary operations should be limited

IN THIS ISSUE

At the same time it presupposes that

It was no coincidence that Nato Ministers were handed a report on Soviet

An apparently cool and detached ap



Mr Papandreou may have been hailed back home as the winner in Brussels.

It forms part of a network of developments extending far beyond the more immediate context of Europe and determining the course of East-West ties.

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt
18. Dezember 1981)

Poles stand alone in their conflict

There, in the Crimea, the Allies sought to lay the foundations for peace in Europe after the defeat of Hitler. Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt were the men who made the decisions.

In a nutshell, what they decided

There have since been uprisings in Berlin, Budapest and Prague — bids by East bloc countries to wrest freedom from the Kremlin's yoke. Emotions have been highly charged.

Yet the West has invariably stood by the terms of the Yalta Agreement and

Continued on page 4

Perception problems as ethereal issue of union is promoted again

European Union is back in the news. It is an extremely vague concept and has been so overused in the past 20 years that it has become just a catchphrase.

It has frequently been paraded impressively and with the best of intentions, but it has also often stood for no more than short-term actionism, thoughtlessness and hypocrisy.

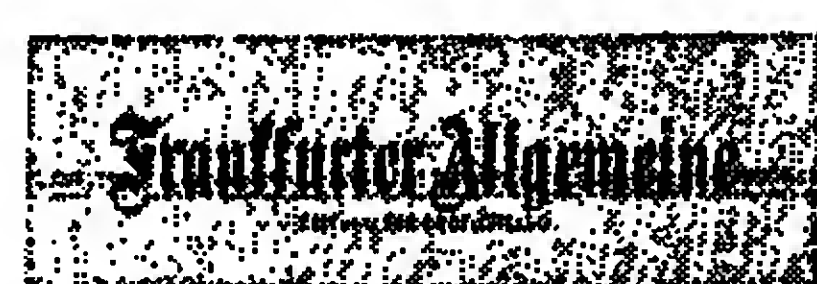
Foreign Minister Genscher's bid to nudge day-to-day European politics back under a common framework as both a hope and a direction is laudable.

Declarations of intent have been put to paper in the form of a European Act. They not only refer time and again to European Union; they also propose ways in which decision-making processes in the EEC could be combined.

But what then happened was a repeat of what has happened so often in the past. The credibility of Herr Genscher's bid suffered a blow only days after it was formally presented.

The Bonn government promptly went on record as basing its arguments on entirely different premises. At the London EEC summit the German delegation said it would be splendid but most not cost much.

The new-look Europe must certainly not cost more than its predecessor, and preferably less. It is hardly surprising that Herr Genscher's move was there-



ter referred to in Brussels and elsewhere as no more than a fig leaf.

Its aim, the argument ran, was merely to cover up the inability of national governments even to meet day-to-day demands and carry out long-overdue and urgently needed reforms of EEC financial structure and farm policy.

Herr Genscher's bid is not the first of its kind. In 1972 the Common Market's heads of state and government declared their intention of transforming "the sum total of relations between member-states into a European Union by the end of the decade."

This intention was reaffirmed at Copenhagen in 1973 and Paris in 1974, but the EEC leaders cannot have been altogether clear what their decision entailed.

At the end of 1974, two years after their initial proclamation, they said they felt it would be appropriate if the Nine were first to reach agreement on an overall concept of European Union.

They agreed to delegate this task to the Belgian Premier, Leo Tindemans. He drew up a report the EEC leaders dealt with in passing in 1976, referring it to their Foreign Ministers for consideration.

It has since been of virtually no im-

portance. *The Times* quoted a French diplomat as saying:

"The Tindemans Report will have to be buried, but the funeral service must be long and florid."

Europe must first take stock, plainly and unequivocally. Is the European Union to be a single, federal state? Or is it to be a less closely-knit confederation?

This question is effectively obsolete. The debate that prompted it is no longer operative. Politically, the demand for a constitutional assembly, a European constitution and, eventually, a European government is no longer topical.

So let us assume that the European Union will be a federal state. This presupposes state territory, state authority and a nation. The last two certainly do not exist.

Still less can there be said to be a voluntary association of free individuals in keeping with general legal principles, not to mention constitutional law.

At least for the time being the psychological prerequisites do not yet exist.

As for the European Union as a loose-knit confederation, European integration organised along EEC lines cannot be said to promote the objective.

Virtually since the EEC began, its leaders have wondered what their aim should be: European integration, in other words intensification, or political

expansion? The two are difficult to accomplish simultaneously.

The decision eventually went in favour of expansion. Initially there were six Common Market countries; now there will be twelve.

Disparities between members, especially economic differences, will then be even greater than they already are. Some harmonisation will be required; there will be even less talk of integration.

Last, but not least, there is the European Assembly, which has been given an impressive electoral mandate to ensure a great parliamentary leap forward in Europe.

But no-one can yet envisage how Strasbourg is to gain the power it needs if it is to have any real say in the running of European affairs.

The European Commission polls 9,000 people a mere six months after the first direct elections to the European Assembly. Not one in three could even recall that elections had been held.

The next Euro-elections are due to be held in 1984. They could be the last of any importance.

How long will European countries individually be able to prevent the erosion of their position midway between the power blocs?

This is the issue that primarily prompted Hans-Dietrich Genscher to recall the target of European Union. He was right to do so, desperately right.

What is now called for is a stocktaking with no attempt to paper over the cracks. Europe needs concentrated effort and sacrifice. Anything else would be a downhill step.

Dieter Wenz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Nr. Deutschland, 19 December 1981)

EEC reforms are unlikely despite all the talk

Little if anything is likely to come of bids to reform the European Community despite months of expert talks, an EEC summit and a conference of Common Market Foreign Ministers.

The most that can be hoped is for a few improvements to survive. The whole idea was doubtful in the first place.

A substantial minority among the Ten, led by the main beneficiaries of the Common Agricultural Policy, did not agree that a reform was needed.

Only a narrow majority felt the Common Market unfairly shared out burdens and benefits and pursued a farm policy that was too expensive.

It was a majority just sufficient to oblige the EEC to negotiate. So while the majority got to push a European Community it said was in need of repair, the minority stayed put and slammed on the anchors.

And even the majority was not agreed among itself. Each country pushed in a different direction, with the result that the course taken, if any, will be determined more by coincidence than by a joint resolve.

At the London meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers, Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher was one of the pushers, but, as the *Financial Times* noted:

"Herr Genscher did not seem to be dead set on the German demand for Bonn's net payments to the Community to be limited in future."

Chancellor Schmidt and his Foreign Minister have abandoned their stand in the European reform dispute, before having to defend it at all seriously.

They initially complained that Germany was footing too much of the Community's bill while other, equally

well-heeled EEC countries were getting too much.

They wanted the Ten to agree to block Germany's balance over a certain net payment level, the exact level being left open to negotiation.

But what is now likely to be left of the reform is unlikely to have much to do with the original request.

At best the saving to Bonn will be about DM100m out of a total transfer to the EEC in Brussels of more than DM12bn.

This meagre outcome must not be taken to mean that the German delegations has failed. They preferred to drop their claims rather than to rule out the slight surviving prospect of EEC reform.

They decided to back down rather than to bargain, as blatantly in the Council of Ministers as even the prosperous Dutch were doing.

Above all, they withdrew from the fray because, in the EEC reform debate, they had been told a few unpleasant home truths.

The figures may clearly show that Bonn pays much more than its fair share of the cost of running the Common Market. Chancellor Schmidt may fairly complain that Germany can no longer continue to be the milk cow of Europe.

But as soon as he does so in the Council of Ministers the voting is 8 to 2



against him, and even that only for as long as Britain too feels hard done by.

Then it is 9 to 1 against Bonn. The Germans may argue that they are not concerned so much about a deutschemark here or there as about financial fair play.

They may say that all they want is to be able to feel they are not being taken for a ride financially, but this cuts no ice with the others.

Brussels Eurocrats report a growing mistrust of Bonn. "What do you Germans really want?" German officials at EEC headquarters are increasingly being asked.

"Are you losing interest in the Community?" is the next question asked.

If other Common Market countries lodge complaints the EEC has a problem. If Bonn does so, the Community is in immediate and imminent danger.

Commenting on the lament that Germany could not be expected to continue forever as virtually the only net financier of the EEC, an Italian official has said this is a minimalist viewpoint.

French diplomats note with increasing frequency that Germany will have rung

up a surplus of nearly DM8bn in trade with France in 1981.

Many German members of the European Assembly agree. They feel the benefit the German economy derives from the Common Market far outweighs the cost to Bonn.

In other words, France and other EEC countries would impose an embargo on imports from Germany, destroy the Common Market and ride roughshod over the Treaty of Rome unless Bonn continue to pay with good grace.

Let Germany export goods and keep quiet, the argument runs. Sound business sense and economic performance in Europe are permitted, but only at a price.

This home truth is taboo. To spell it out is felt to be bad form by EEC diplomats, but Bonn has little choice but to abide by it in its European policy.

Winfried Münster

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 December 1981)

The German Tribune

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Stoltenberg throws hat into Chancellorship ring



Gerhard Stoltenberg... first a denial.
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Murky business of raising cash

No party can finance itself from membership dues alone. And even the campaign allowance provided by the state is not enough.

As a result, parties depend on promoters to who make donations, naturally tax deductible.

Seven hundred investigations by the Bonn public prosecutor show that raising cash is not always a straightforward and above board business.

Among those under suspicion are top-ranking politicians. The only reason they do not pillory their political opponents is the fact that all parties are involved.

The impression all this makes is disastrous. The very parties that are pressing for stricter legislation to enable the state to prosecute a bit of moonlighting or tax evasion are themselves large-scale tax evaders.

Tax investigators are certain now that they have fathomed how the parties operate.

Sometimes the donations are channelled via charitable organisations closely associated with a party.

Sometimes party sympathisers provide worthless "studies" which the principals reward in the form of fat fees.

All that matters is to achieve the ultimate objective by promoting a party while at the same time saving on taxes.

If the letter of the law were observed, party donations up to a maximum of DM1,800 per person could be written off against taxes. This goes back to a Constitutional Court ruling that denied political parties the status of charitable organisations.

In order to be able to receive higher donations, many party officials would like to change the Constitution and so obtain a general amnesty for tax evasion in this connection. But this would be impossible in a democratic country.

Instead of constantly contemplating ways and means of getting more money, the parties should for a change consider how to cut down on spending.

An election campaign with fewer posters and more sound arguments would be gratifying, not only for the party treasurers but for the public.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 12 December 1981)

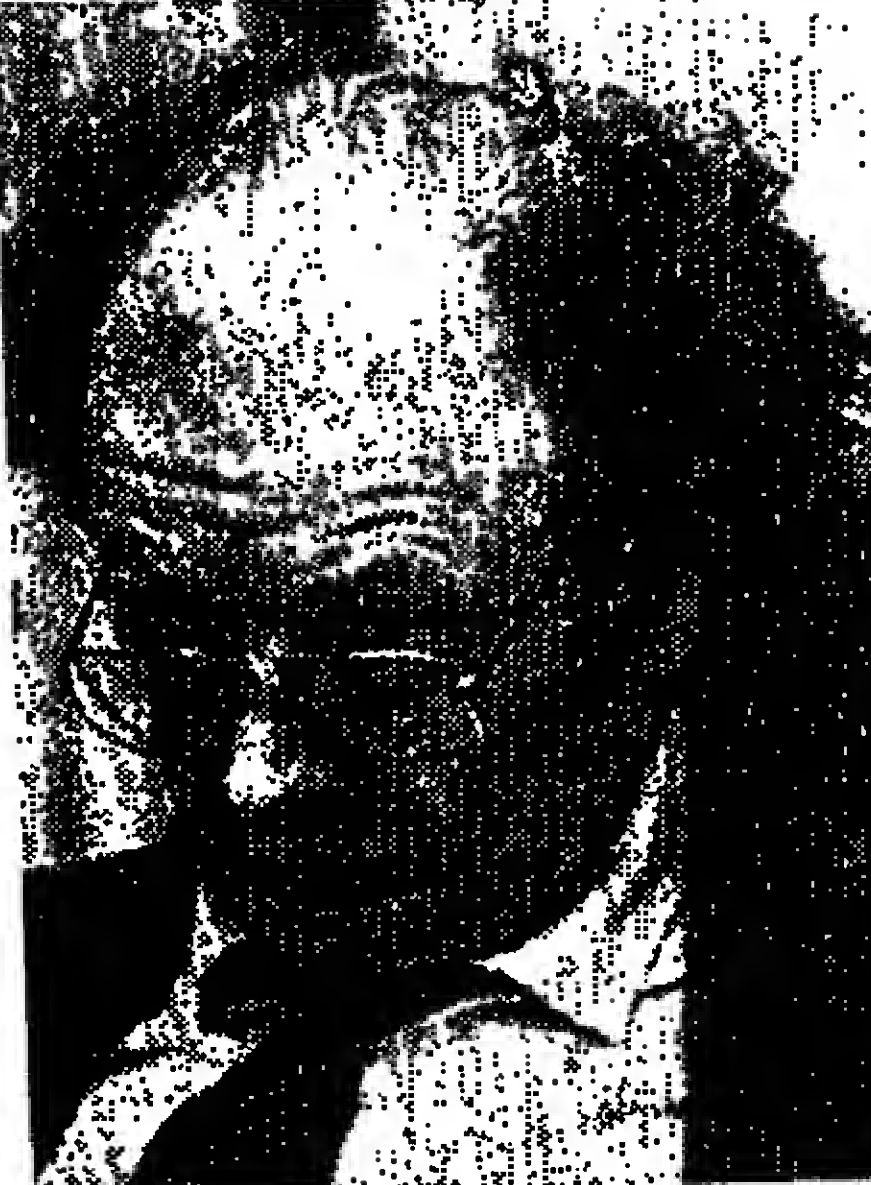
ly lie with the CDU/CSU but with the FDP.

Yet the liberals have so far not indicated that they are prepared to change partners. Pointing to the four State elections next year, Stoltenberg said: "Should the SPD lose one or two more *Länder* it is quite conceivable that both SPD and FDP will ask themselves whether there is any point in staying in government under the circumstances."

On the other hand, FDP general secretary Verheugen has confirmed that his party is not thinking of a change of coalition partner before 1984.

He said that the conservative attitude in the Mediating Committee on the new austerity laws had shown that "the policy of adaptation to changed structures cannot be implemented with the CDU/CSU."

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 17 December 1981)



Karl-Heinz Hansen... would not speculate on new party.
(Photo: dpa)

Appeal fails: Social Democrat MP's expulsion stands



The SPD's National Arbitration Committee has confirmed that Karl-Heinz Hansen is expelled from the party to which he belonged for 20 years.

Its decision is a ruling on appeal by Hansen, who had earlier been expelled by a district committee.

The wisdom of the ruling is doubtful. Only the future will show what is more damaging for the SPD: an MP whose ill considered forays have frequently hit below the belt or the decision of the Arbitration Committee, the consequences of which are still incalculable.

It remains to be seen how many SPD members, if any, will demonstrate their sympathy with Hansen by leaving the party.

It also remains to be seen whether the committee ruling will lead to the establishment of a new party to the left of the SPD.

Hansen himself has speculated along these lines. But there is every likelihood that the arbitration committee thought about this when passing its ruling.

One thing is obvious. The supporters

and signatories of the Löwenthal paper have now scored their first victory: the expulsion of Hansen has bolstered those forces within and outside the SPD that would like to exclude whole sections of the SPD from the party.

But what exactly triggered the expulsion?

Hansen, a Düsseldorf MP, accused the Chancellor in the spring of "political filthiness".

He apologised. Yet in May he accused the government of engaging in "secret diplomacy".

This is an accusation which, according to SPD general secretary Peter Glatz, is as weighty as the accusation of "having cheated on social security pensions" which the conservatives levelled at the Chancellor during the election campaign.

As a result, the mills of disciplinary action started grinding. The arbitration committee of the Lower Rhine district ruled to expel Hansen, but the MP appealed to the National Arbitration Committee. The party executive board also pressed for expulsion.

After a hearing lasting more than three hours and careful perusal of the dossier, the National Arbitration Committee finally arrived at its ruling which, right or wrong, is final.

Yet several questions come to mind which might be answered when the committee gives its reasons.

How important is freedom of opinion and criticism within the SPD? What are the limits of the Social Democratic Party's tolerance? What about the principle of equality without which there can be no justice within a democracy?

And why is no disciplinary action taken against those who talk loudly about ways and means of excluding whole sections of the SPD?

There is yet another question that should be clarified: are those Social Democrats who agree with the substance of Hansen's criticism to be deemed cast out along with him?

Karl-Heinz Hansen can now take his case to court. And there is yet another possibility of his rejoining the party: once before, an SPD National Congress "pardoned" an expelled member.

That was in Nuremberg in 1968 and the member was Harry Ristock who went on to become a member of the SPD executive board.

Gode Lips

(Vorwärts, 17 December 1981)

Breakaway from SPD mooted

One hundred and fifty former members of the SPD are trying to form a new party of the left, according to reports from Hesse.

The question now is whether moves towards an alternative to the SPD will snowball in view of the expulsion of Bundestag MP Karl-Heinz Hansen.

Hansen himself avoided the question in several interviews after his expulsion. He was on the left wing of the SPD.

He did, however, say that many of his fellow party members had made a decision on this question subject to the outcome of the disciplinary action against him.

All who shared his political views, he said, now had to ask themselves whether these views are still represented within the party or whether "they must now seek a different forum."

SPD general-secretary Peter Glatz said in an interview that Hansen and others would soon find that "it is very difficult

Heinz Murmann

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 December 1981)

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■ THE ECONOMY

The soothsayers remain miserable

Forecasts by the various economic institutes, councils and economic affairs departments are black or, at best, cautious.

There is good reason for this. Bonn's forecast at the end of last year that things would pick up was far off the mark.

This year's GNP is likely to decline by one to 1.5 per cent. We have just weathered a recession year and there is no change in sight.

This time, too, Bonn is optimistic — but then, it is not the government's function to spread pessimism.

It forecasts a growth rate of 1.5 per cent next year. The economic research institutes speak of one per cent and the Council of Economic Advisers speaks of 0.5 per cent.

The differences are marginal, but the whole thing boils down to stagnation. Particularly cautious forecasters expect another recession year. This includes the Platow forecast.

Though this institute overestimated the 1981 decline, it has otherwise always hit the mark although — or perhaps because — it is not staffed by a huge number of professors.

Platow anticipates a decline of 1.75 per cent. Perhaps this is too bleak; but regardless of half a percentage point either way, Germany will have to make do with what it gets, and it is unlikely that the future will be much better than as seen by Platow.

Germany was lucky this year despite its problems. Exports were boosted by the exchange rate and the amazingly stable investment actively prevented an even worse recession.

Even so, the investment quota this year dropped from last year's satisfactory 23 per cent.

The reason for this is that investments are not only governed by the decline in interest rates and, by improved tax write-offs — which Bonn sensibly introduced — but also by sales prospects and technology.

But there are no expanding markets in sight; and hence it is unlikely that much will be invested in new products. But at least the investment motor will be ticking over at half speed.

In a branch of industry as important as automobiles, where the demand has ceased to decline, despite the drop in incomes, there is every likelihood that sales will pick up in 1982; and here, innovations stimulate investment; the market calls for more economical models, and the need to streamline production is an additional investment incentive in all branches of industry.

As a result, the forecasters are agreed that next year productivity will rise by 2.5 per cent.

But there are two sides to this. The performance of the national economy will improve, but the main problem, unemployment, will get worse.

Only a minimum growth rate of 2.5 per cent would ensure at least the present level of unemployment. But since this is wishful thinking and stagnation is the more likely prospect, unemployment will increase from 1.5 million in November to an annual average of 1.65 million next year.

And should the pessimistic forecast of a one per cent decline in the GNP materialise, unemployment will be 1.75 million.

Although conventional job-creating programmes are unlikely to do much good, especially in view of the fact that two-thirds of our unemployment is structural, there is every likelihood that union pressure will become so strong that Bonn will be forced to scrape together its last few billions and pretend that it is doing something useful.

The trade unions, which are largely responsible for the present situation, will have to face facts. And they are doing so.

The first announced wage targets show that the main aim is to conserve the buying power of the workers. But if the metalworkers' 7.5 per cent pay claim and the 6 per cent demand of the white-collar workers results in a 4.5 per cent deal, even this modest target will not be reached.

Bonn anticipates a 4.5 per cent inflation rate, but this is too optimistic and it is unlikely that the 1982 rate will drop below this year's six per cent.

Lower prices for imported goods due to the declining dollar exchange rate will have a beneficial effect as will the reduced per unit production cost due to more modest wage deals than those of 1981.

But whether production costs can also be reduced by a better use of capacities (this year 78 per cent against last year's 84 per cent) remains to be seen.

The healthy export business has so far failed to boost domestic sales, which have in fact been sagging.

The major areas of industry have presented negative reports. This applies particularly to the construction industry which shows a decline of 5.3 per cent this year and which is unlikely to do much better in 1982, despite lower interest rates.

Disregarding a few special branches like electronic data processing and office equipment (up 10 per cent) and our subsidised shipbuilding industry (up 4

per cent), most areas report a drop in production.

The motor industry stagnated and would have declined had it not been for exports. But the terms of trade are beginning to shift in favour of Germany's industry.

But will the favourable trend continue? The rise of the dollar exchange rate, which favoured our exports, has been halted. There is every likelihood that the dollar will settle at between DM2.10 and DM2.25.

It seems that the difference in inflation rates between the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany is gaining in importance and outstripping the difference in interest rates, which is diminishing anyway.

A major New York bank has already reduced its prime rate to 15.75 per cent. Only a few months ago, it was more than 21 per cent.

Here, too, the era of capital market interest rates of more than 10 per cent seems to be over, especially in view of the fact that there are billions lying around in German capital markets waiting for investment.

But growing budgetary deficits and the huge American capital requirements for the financing of the arms build-up will prevent any major decline in the interest rates.

Germany's export boom is the more surprising considering that none of the major industrial countries has a boom and the volume of world trade is likely to have dropped by one per cent in 1981.

Despite all hopes pinned on Reagan, the United States has slid into a recession. But this does not mean that Reagan's supply-side policy is wrong. It is much too early to tell.

Still, the 3 to 3.5 per cent decline in the GNP in the last quarter of this year, coupled with a double-figure inflation rate and growing unemployment, is anything but propitious.

Despite tax incentives, the American capital goods industry complains about meagre order books.

Almost all industrial countries are trying to fight unemployment, though using widely differing methods.

The monetarism of Britain's Prime Minister Thatcher exists on paper only. In reality, Britain's public sector indebtedness keeps growing.

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Step towards a stronger deutschemark

resisted those who recommended patent remedies.

There were those who advocated letting the deutschemark exchange rate drop. Had the Bundesbank gone along at the time, our oil bill, which has to be paid in dollars and which is high enough anyway, would have been staggering, and inflation would have gone up. The result would have been higher wage demands and more unemployment.

Others recommended reducing our interest rates regardless of the rates abroad. But this would have been the same as a deutschemark depreciation.

The trade unions demanded a job-creating programme, to be financed through additional borrowing. This, too, would have resulted in more inflation and — after a flash in the pan impro-

vement on the labour market — more unemployment.

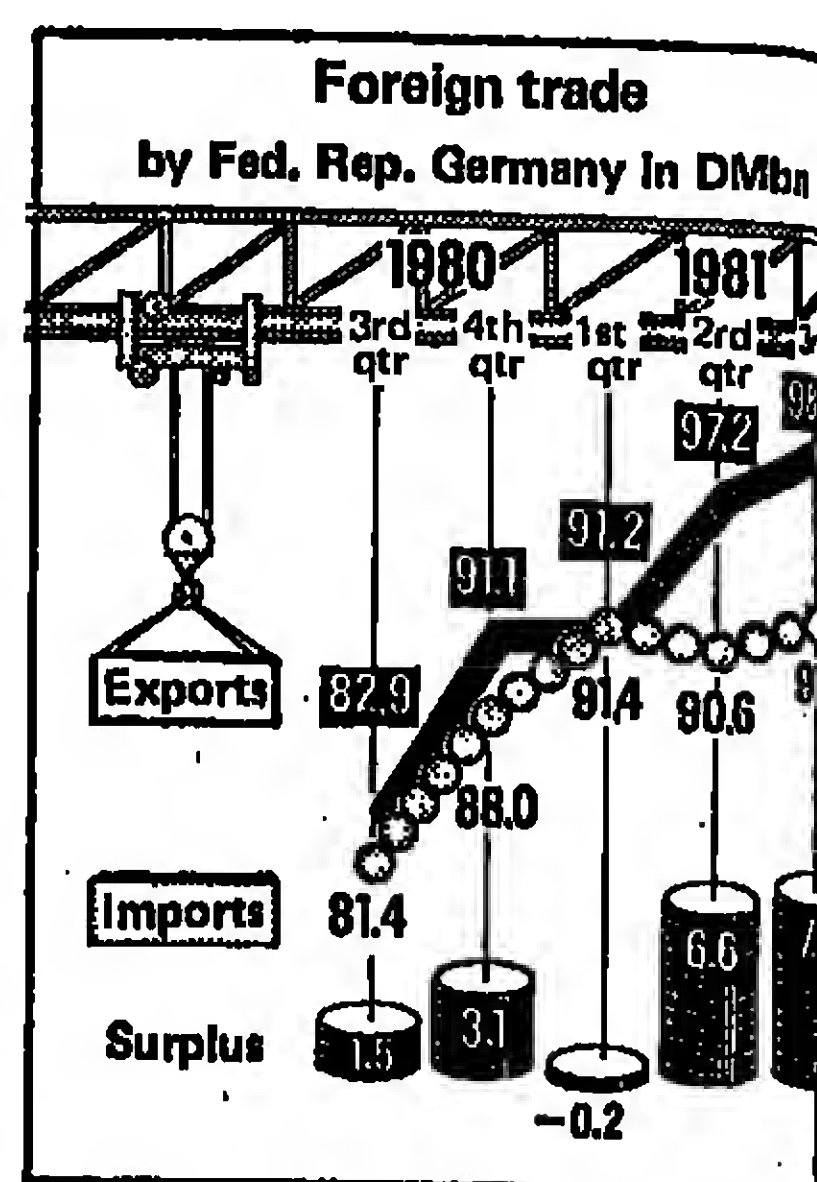
Bonn and the Bundesbank have opted for a more tedious and more effective course.

The basic idea is that the deutschemark must once more become an appreciating currency.

Financing the current account deficit with imported capital would be the result.

The Bundesbank has grasped the first opportunity to enable the banks to borrow (against securities as a collateral) at 10.5 instead of 11 per cent.

It was able to do this because the export boom and reduced oil imports somewhat closed the balance of payments.



So far President Mitterrand's nationalisation policy in France has been unsuccessful as Reaganomics.

But there is a silver lining for world trade: the industrial countries' current account deficits are diminishing including that of Japan, which has been in the vanguard regarding growth policy but is now chafing more and more against the import barriers of its most important customers.

The current account deficit of all OECD countries will drop to US\$45bn (1980: US\$75bn).

Although the rise in oil prices has halted this year and (if the Saudi Arabians have their way) will remain steady in 1982, the Opec countries have again achieved huge surpluses due to the strength of the dollar.

The stabilisation of oil prices at a high level does not mean that the demand on the industrial countries' affluence due to the oil bill has come to an end, and this applies in equal measure to Germany as it does to oil-rich Britain.

Ludwig Erhard's admonishment to exercise moderation, which has been mocked and maligned by the shortsighted, is something we will have to adopt and come to terms with.

Any other attitude would be tantamount to an ostrich policy — a course still pursued by many policy makers.

There is no change in sight, and he could there be since we are lacking the main prerequisites for it: performance and innovation.

Franz Thoms
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 December 1981)

■ BUSINESS

Trade fairs an easy way to come an expensive cropper

Trade fairs abroad are often regarded as something of a safari by North American and European companies.

However, often they don't know whether they are the hunter or the hunted.

That's mostly their own fault: it stems from failure to make use of what information is available.

One thing should be clarified right from the beginning. What is the aim of the fair?

"Don't be influenced by rumours or reports of fantastic successes you might have heard. After all, sensational successes always go hand-in-hand with equally sensational risks," says Munich expert Günter D. Roth.

Wrong assessments are usually because travel-happy exhibitors fail to obtain reliable information on the actual market opportunities for their products.

They arrive with unwarranted hopes. There is another thing to consider. Only consumer goods fairs usually result in direct orders.

With capital goods, fairs are usually restricted to exchanging information and establishing contacts.

They are therefore costly if the wrong fair is picked.

There are five main reasons why Germany's medium sized companies are under-represented at, say, Mexican or Indian fairs, compared with major corporations:

- high cost;
- unclear ideas of a possible success;
- lack of export marketing;
- inadequate information on the country and its people; and
- no staff with foreign experience.

Yet it is the medium sized companies that stand a good chance at such fairs since they frequently offer special goods others cannot supply.

Specialisation enables them not only to compete with large corporations but is also the key to success on the highly competitive export markets of the world.

Information on the country, its people and its markets is therefore a must.

But statistical figures on infrastructure and per capita incomes do not always provide reliable information on how German goods will actually be received. It is here that the nose comes into its own.

Those who want to penetrate foreign markets and stay there must learn to cope with different ways and habits.

This includes the type of advertising and general promotion plus negotiating techniques.

European and American attitudes aren't always suitable for new African and Asian states.

Apart from knowledge and experience on foreign markets, it is above all patience that matters. And this is a virtue harried Europeans frequently lack. After all, most other peoples of this world

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Continued on page 7



AEG...parading at Peking fair. (Photo: dpa)

Medium sized companies can save money by going as part of the official Federal Republic of Germany representation. Close to 40 per cent of exhibitors at foreign fairs seek such an arrangement.

Germans companies participate on a major scale in about 500 fairs and shows abroad. 130 are officially attended by the Federal Republic of Germany, says the Shows and Fairs Committee of the German Business Community (Auma).

Together with the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs, Auma coordinates German involvement in foreign fairs.

Bonn subsidised this to the tune of DM23.5m this year, and the individual Länder contributed another DM5m.

Though the assistance from Bonn and the Länder is naturally welcome, it is frequently considered a nuisance by the exhibitors because of its lack of coordination and because ambitious individual interests often turn into a caricature of a meaningful involvement abroad.

Thus, for instance, Bavaria's Economic Affairs Minister Anton Jaumann recently opened a "Bavarian Design" show in Peking. The move (cost: DM1.2m) met with a lot of scepticism outside Bavaria, and Bonn actually wondered whether such shows are conducive to economic relations.

But a spokesman for the Bavarian Economic Affairs Ministry, Bernd Lenze, said he saw nothing unusual in the show, stressing that "Bavaria has been working with the Chinese since 1974."

Quite apart from Bavaria's involvement in China, foreign fairs fulfil three major functions:

Translating and notarising, DM400 per bale of freight; the exhibition stand, DM18,000; two helpers, a nightwatchman, an electrician, telephone, chairs, tables, drinks, etc. DM8,000; a machine and two salesmen from Germany, around DM10,000 each. The total without the exhibited goods thus comes to around DM100,000.

The Munich Ifo Institute figures that the average overall cost of taking part in a foreign fair comes to about DM45,000 for the manufacturing industry, DM34,000 for commerce and DM30,000 for goods produced by tradesmen.

Foreign fairs account for about 20 per cent of the sales promotion budgets of industrial and artisan companies and about 30 per cent for trading companies.

These figures bring home how costly it can be to plunge into a foreign fair without full information and weighing all pros and cons.

(Wirtschaftswoche, 11 December 1981)

Continued from page 6

ued if the other pillars of the economy are sensibly.

By announcing the money supply target for 1982 and the margin within which this supply will be permitted to grow, the Bundesbank has revealed its intentions. It expects the production potential to increase as a result of expanded plants and 1.5 to 2 per cent more output.

The underlying assumption is that prices will rise by 3.5 per cent and that the rate at which the money supply will grow will remain unchanged.

The targets are realistic and — given a flexible policy — they can be achieved.

We could in fact face the New Year confidently if the Bonn government and the parties to collective bargaining were to pull in the same direction.

But it has become obvious in the Bundestag mediating committee that the necessary changes in public sector budgets cannot be implemented to the extent that is called for.

On the other hand, there are signs indicating that most union bosses have understood that the next round of collective bargaining cannot even attempt to offset losses in buying power due to inflation if due consideration is to be given not only to those who are lucky enough to have a job but also to those who have the misfortune of being unemployed.

(Die Zeit, 11 December 1981)

Johanna Eberhardt
(Die Zeit, 11. December 1981)

■ AEROSPACE

Communications boost as Euro satellite goes into orbit

Marecs, the Maritime European Communications Satellite, is aloft. It was put into orbit by the European launcher rocket Ariane from Kourou, French Guiana.

For Ariane it was the fourth and final test launchings; Marecs, its payload, is the first of three satellites to span the globe. They will maintain a constant satellite relay link between merchant navy ships and their home ports.

Via Marecs ships all over the world can use the international telephone, telexprinter and facsimile transmission services.

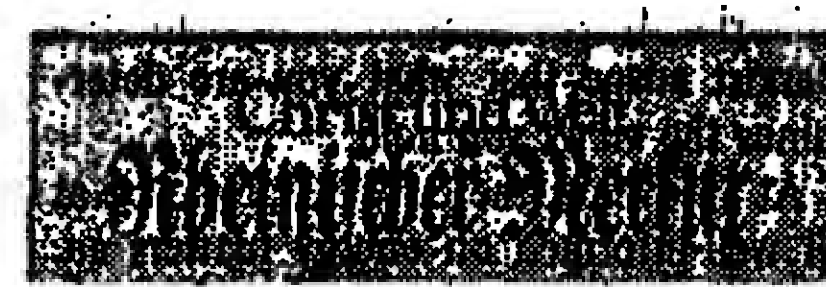
The international maritime satellite system should help to eliminate the annoying waste of time waiting for relay links to be established between the land-based relay station and the ship on the high seas.

Radio contact will also be consistent, of high quality and no longer subject to atmospheric or the distance between, the two.

Marecs can relay to ships the latest weather reports. For specific areas special reports may be compiled to help ships to ride out a hurricane, say.

These are jobs that have long been handled by land-based radio stations such as Norddeutsch-Radio on Germany's North Sea coast, but atmospheric have often complicated communications.

The Morse code and conventional me-



ritime radio ruled supreme until 1976, then the US Marisat programme heralded an improvement.

From 1982 a trio of Marecs satellites in orbit will relay communications worldwide between European and other merchant ships and their home ports.

They will be launched as part of the Inmarsat system but maintain close contact with the Intelsat 'S' network, which is already in orbit and operation.

Expansion of the communications facilities between shipping and its home ports is of substantial economic importance; it also improves the safety of ships and crews in the event of an emergency.

A key feature of the system will be the worldwide relay of SOS calls and distress signals.

About three years ago a German freighter, the *München*, went down with all hands somewhere near the Azores. She sank without trace.

The official report concluded that her heavy cargo must have slipped and caused her to list. A breaker is presumed to have sunk the listing vessel.

The fate of the *München* is an example of how important it is for SOS

calls and positions to be relayed as widely and as soon as possible. So is that of the container freighter *Elma Tres*, which sank off the Bermudas a few weeks ago. If the *München* had been able to relay her SOS by satellite the crew's lives might have been saved. As it was, no-one knew exactly what her position had been at the time of the mishap, so the air-sea rescue planes had to scour a wide area of sea. The new Marecs system will make it easier for other vessels to receive distress signals and to relay them to the emergency services. Inmarsat is backed by the major seafaring nations, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, Norway, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Nearly 20 states signed the agreement in July 1979. The system has an original capital of \$200m.

The three satellites envisaged will be stationed over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, covering the entire face of the earth and its maritime trading routes.

They will all orbit the earth over the equator and at an altitude of 36,000km, where their orbit time is exactly 24 hours. So from down below they will appear to be stationary.

Marecs consists of a compact, almost cubic central unit with antennas in front and solar paddles at each side to convert sunlight into electric power.

Sophisticated system to maintain position

A sophisticated positioning system will ensure that the satellite in general and its antennas in particular are aimed exactly at the Earth.

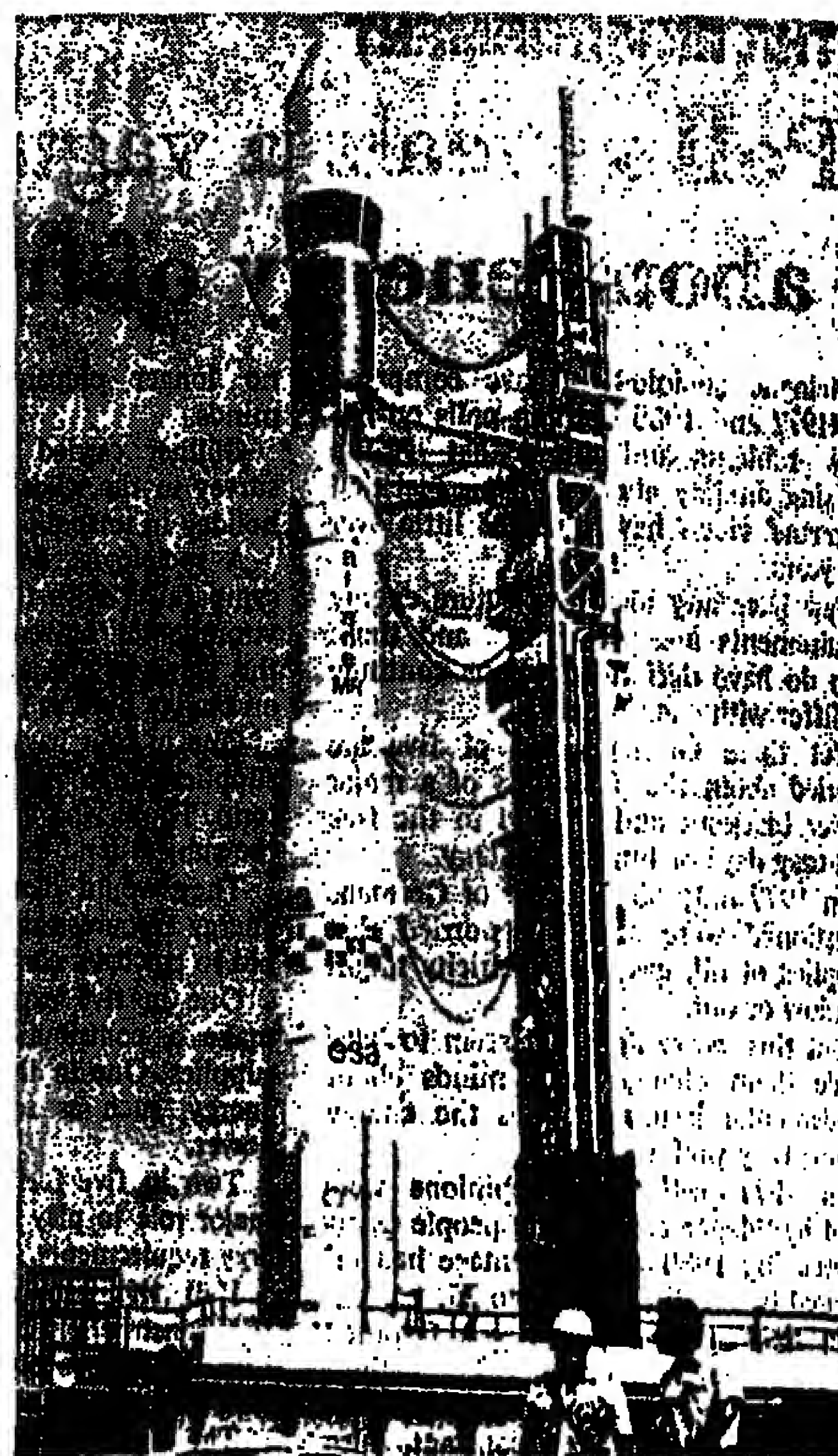
They will do so to within a margin of half a geographical degree. The solar cells, by the same token, always be aimed at the Sun, ensuring a constant 1,000 watts or so of electric power.

The electronic payload was built by Marconi Space and Defence Systems. Communications between satellite and ground station are in the four- to six-gigahertz frequency range.

Communications between satellite and ships are in the 1.5- to 1.6-gigahertz range.

In addition to the main antenna for relaying signals to ships the satellite has several smaller horn antennas for data and command reception.

The first satellite was originally to have been launched before mid-December



Getting ready for the lift-off.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

but trouble with this communication system led to postponement.

The satellite design was based on experience gained by a British consortium in building the OTS, Europe's first communication satellite, launched in 1978.

Marecs is designed on the module principle. Inside it consists of two platforms arranged round the small rocket motor used to get the satellite into its orbit.

The service module comprises operational facilities, the payload module the electronic systems needed to relay communications, such as amplifiers, transponders and so on.

Four Marecs satellites in all are planned; the fourth will be held in reserve. They will be built by a European consortium headed by British Aerospace. The contract is worth about DM65m.

Germany has a fair share of the contract. Erno in Bremen are responsible for the temperature, attitude stabilisation and orbit correction systems.

All three operational satellites will be launched by Ariane, which is a splendid opportunity for the European launcher rocket to show it can perform as well as the more expensive American space shuttle.

The Marecs just launched will surge the Atlantic from a vantage point on the equator at 15 degrees west.

The second satellite is to be launched in April and brought into position over the Pacific at 188 degrees east.

The main ground station for the Marecs system will be at the European space operations centre in Darmstadt near Frankfurt.

Others will be in Redu, Belgium; Kourou, French Guiana; Malindi, Kenya; and Camarvon, Australia.

Wolfgang Engelhardt (Rheinischer Merkur/Charit und Welt, 11 December 1981)

■ LITERATURE

Translators' forum gets smaller

The annual gathering of translators into German, known as the Esslingen talks, was hard hit by economies this year.

There used to be seminars in six to eight language groups; this year there were only three: English, French and Czech.

There were two reasons why. Government spending cuts was one; the other will be dealt with later.

Economies in the arts, as elsewhere, have a habit of being made where you would hardly expect further cuts to be possible, let alone to achieve much of a saving.

They are a sad blow to literary translators, who are loners, shun the limelight, are poorly paid and given scant attention.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bergneustadt, near Bonn, where the talks have been held since 1973, had to halve the number of speakers.

The body that in the past has awarded prize-winning translators travel scholarships was this year unable to do so.

It may not rely on public funds but it has found its sources of cash, publishers and other private donors, more reluctant to provide funds this year.

Klaus Birkenhauer, president of the German Translators' Association and head of the translators' section of the Writers' Association, sounded a disheartening note.

Emergency plans were needed to salvage what was left of the European Translators' College in Stralsund on the Dutch border, he said.

Invitations to several Yugoslav translators to attend the gathering had to be withdrawn. Two Bulgarian translators could not be paid travel expenses.

This list of economies could be continued with ease. They testify to the shortcomings of an arts system in which much more importance is attached to an opera choir than to a dozen translations of novels.

Why, one wonders, is the Literature Fund unable to provide a shot in the arm? It is, of course, concerned mainly with translations of German literature into other languages, but the question may still be asked.

The only award to be made this year was the Hieronymus-Ring, or Ring of St Jerome, endowed in 1979 jointly by the translators and by Rowohl, the Hamburg publishers.

It is awarded every three years and does not include a cash provision. It first went to Susanna Brenner-Rademacher, who died in 1980 and was unable to hand it over to her successor.

He is Kai Molvig, whom Heinrich Maria Ledig-Rowohl, his publisher, called a particularly quiet translator, although he had translated a number of strident books.

They include *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, by Hubert Selby, and *Fear of Flying*, by Erica Jong.

Herr Rowohl said Molvig was extremely sensitive, quick to appreciate a point and keen in his power of observation. He was unable for health reasons to attend personally.

His work has for the most part been translations from American English, including novels by Philip Roth, John Updike and Terry Southern.

The other reason why so few seminars were held at Bergneustadt this year was

that many translators are inclined to go into greater detail on individual aspects of translation.

They are problems that arise from the language into which they translate, German, rather than from the language from which they translate.

Working parties met to review two such topics, idioms and the subjunctive. Both subjects were chaired by linguists and introductory papers read.

Hans Schemann, from Stuttgart, gave a paper entitled *Idioms as an Attraction and a Difficulty in Translation*. It dealt with expressions that said one thing and meant another.

They called for a special kind of translation, mediating between reality and language, that was a particular challenge to the translator as a mediator.

They also provided an opportunity of keeping one's own language flexible and of enriching it.

He supplied a glossary, with comments, on expressions used for the concept of dying. It was most illuminating.

Karl-Heinz Bausch, from Mannheim, dealt with *The Subjunctive as a Stylistic Feature*. His starting point was the discrepancy between theory and practice.

He showed that forms of the subjunctive still extant in German today disproved the claims linguists made, especially in respect of the use of the conditional instead of the subjunctive.

His conclusion was that everyone drew up his own rules that differed from grammatical requirements not only in the spoken but also in the written language.

They also often differed from the explanations the user of these individual rules gave to outline how they worked.

Klaus Birkenhauer dealt with reference facilities in Stralsund, where the European Translators' College already has useful sections for the smaller languages.

The reference section is particularly strong on German and Russian, and somewhat more surprisingly well stocked with reference material for Swedish, Polish and Finnish.

Two major bequests have greatly added to the library's stock. They are the libraries of writer Joseph Breitbach and translator Susanna Brenner-Rademacher.

The final event at this year's gathering was entitled *The Author Meets His Translator - Translators Meet Their Author*.

Writer Max von der Grün was the guest. He discussed with translators his book *What Was It Really Like? Childhood and Youth in the Third Reich*.

His translators into Dutch, Swedish, English and Hungarian were supposed to be present, but only Laszlo Jolesz, the Hungarian, turned up.

But the others' work was at least available, and short extracts were compared. No special translation problems came to light, just a few contemporary terms.

What was the translator to do with terms such as Hitler Youth or standard-bearer, translate them or leave them in German with a brief explanation?

Comparison of translations did, however, unearth sloppy German in von der Grün's original book, an illuminating mixture of autobiography and documentation.

The author links and contrasts his own life story with the history of the Third Reich.

Some translators left slovenly German in slovenly translation, others quietly put it right.

Self-critical translators at this year's Esslingen talks said what they needed most was a refresher course in their own language. Maybe writers do too.

Andreas Rossmann (Der Tagesspiegel, 10 December 1981)

A fresh look at the truth and the lie of life

We mostly tell lies about ourselves. Fact is so absurd is often needs to be helped along by a little fiction. The artist's role in giving meaning to life can prove his undoing.

The writer Wolfgang Hildesheimer, 65, takes a fresh look at the eternal contradiction between fact and fiction, between the truth and the lie of life.

Hildesheimer, who now lives in Switzerland, achieved a major international breakthrough with his 1977 biography of Mozart.

His *Mozart* was a legend-killer. It impressively outlined the nature of the artist and the risks he runs.

But Hildesheimer does not really believe he can transpose himself into someone who lived in the past. His biographies are fictitious; what he has to say refers to the present.

Marbot, his latest book, is a serious biography of a contemporary of Goethe's. Hildesheimer has chosen to invent; it is also a criticism of today's pseudo-artists.

The true artist, he writes, portrays his own nature, and the true biographer is chosen by his hero.

Hildesheimer's masterly images of life



Wolfgang Hildesheimer ... aims to stimulate not satisfy. (Photo: IP/Suhrkamp Verlag)

are not intended to satisfy our curiosity but to stimulate us into thoroughly reconsidering our existence and our relationship with the arts.

Hildesheimer, who was awarded the 1966 Büchner Prize, was born in Hamburg. His father was a chemist who was obliged, as a Jew, to emigrate. So from 1933 to 1936 he worked as a joiner in Palestine.

He travelled widely. In 1937 he attended a course on theatre set design in Salzburg. He toured Brittany, Cornwall and Switzerland.

From 1939 to 1945 he served as a British information officer in Palestine. He also wrote art reviews and exhibited pictures and collages of his own.

From 1946 to 1949 he worked as an interpreter at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He resumed German nationality and settled as a painter in Bavaria.

So his life has been adventurous and overladen by events nearly all the time. Hildesheimer sought refuge in ironic detachment.

On a cold day in February it was too cold in his studio, he says with a wink, so he switched to writing short stories. They sold like hot cakes to the newspapers.

They appeared as *Loveless Legends* in 1952, a collection of amusing and mali-

RHEINISCHE POST

cious tales of the intellectual and artistic world.

In this first published book Hildesheimer already used his technique of including invented biographical and autobiographical details.

A year later it was joined by *Paradise of False Birds*, a satirical novel. He made a wider reputation with his 1955 radio play *Princess Turandot*, an intriguing parable of power and powerlessness.

It won him the war blind radio play prize and a stage version put on by Gustaf Gründgens in Düsseldorf, renamed *The Dragon's Throne*.

One- and two-act plays with a tendency towards the absurd were published as *Games in Which It Grows Dark* in 1958. They were fairly successful, as was his play *The Dely*. But Hildesheimer was not to become a major playwright.

His 1965 novel *Tynser*, the minutes of a sleepless night, earned him an enviable reputation. In the recollections, hopes and anxieties of this one night he succeeds in outlining an entire life.

It is an exercise in self-questioning as a kind of criticism of the age, biography as current affairs.

His 1973 novel *Mesante* also contains disguised elements of self-observation based on an elaborate mixture of recollection and reflection.

Mozart, a bestseller, tells the exemplary tale of a free artist. The importance of Mozart, arguably the greatest genius of known history, went unnoticed by his contemporaries.

Mozart is said to have been an undersized present to mankind, a unique natural work of art, although he differs from previous biographers in allowing that Mozart was both a genius and a man.

Hildesheimer did not fully expound how he saw the artist until his latest novel, *Marbot*, which deals with a totally imaginary historical figure.

Sir Andrew Marbot is a contemporary of Goethe's and Schopenhauer's. He draws up an aesthetic approach along psychoanalytical lines.

The artist, he says, would be terrified if he were able to see through the motives that prompted him to work. The artist is incapable of feeling at home in the world and continually in jeopardy, a truly pathological case.

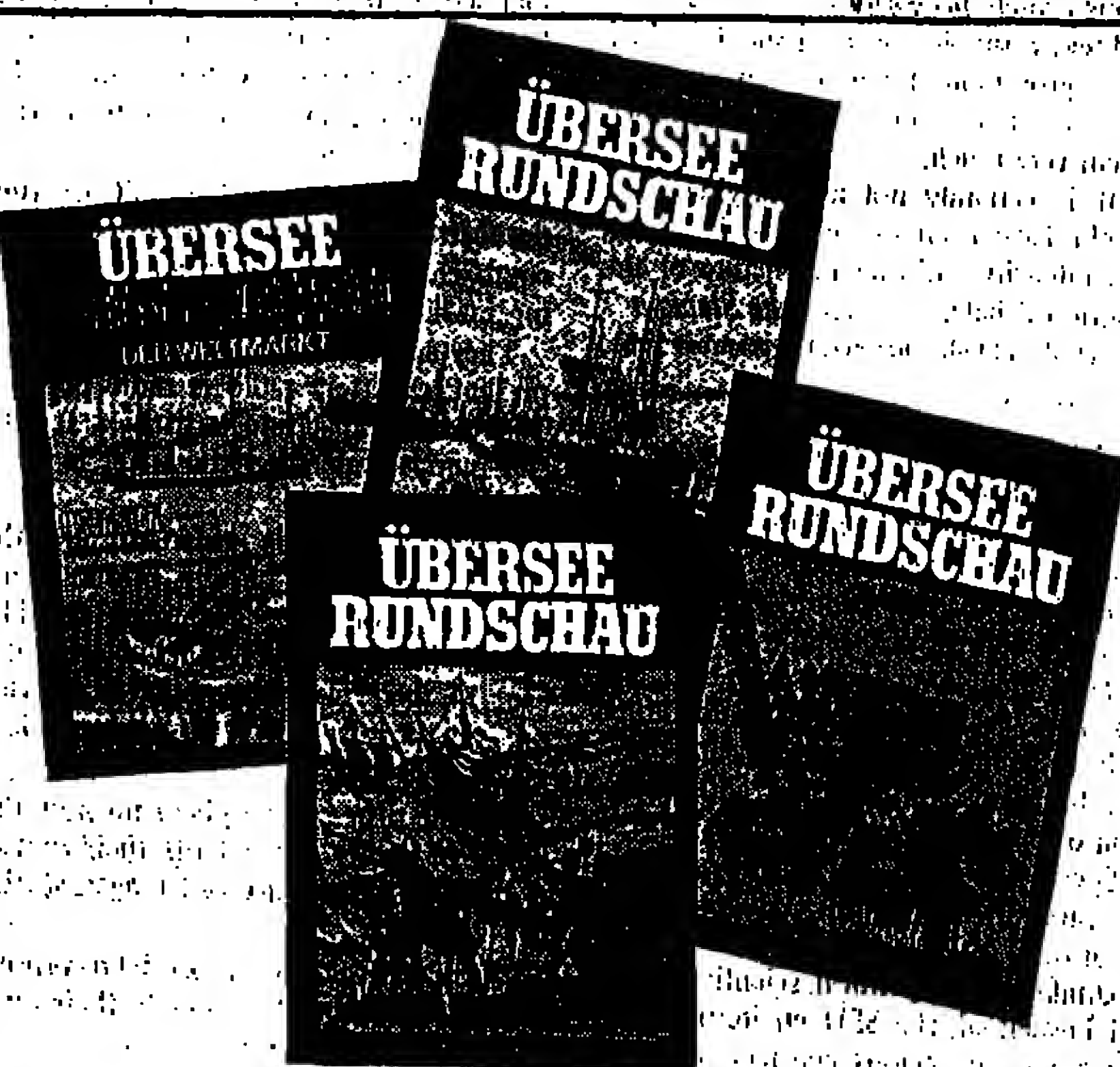
Young Sir Andrew, a man given to melancholy, goes into the work of art as the dictate of the unconscious impulses of his creator.

He comes close to the soul of the creative but, like all connoisseurs of art, is not himself creative.

He was able to go into the artist's psyche and its influence on choice of subject matter, imagery and composition, but the basic secret of art remained a mystery to him.

According to Hildesheimer it is a relationship between will and ability, between experience and the processing of experience. It can only be experienced by someone who has his own inimitable oeuvre.

Wolfgang Schirmacher (Rheinische Post, 9 December 1981)



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■ THE CINEMA

Film festival faces closure as public shows it prefers to watch TV

So few people bothered to turn out for this year's Würzburg film weekend that the event might not be held again.

The organising committee wants financial support from the city of Würzburg. Otherwise, in the words of one member, "we've reached the end of the road."

The festival has never been a box-office success. But this year was worse than ever.

One of the organisers said: "If we were to show film versions of works of literature, we could dig up the oldest films and always be sure of a full house."

A full house here means 410 seats. On offer this year were eight Yugoslav films three Italian, two French and four German.

None had enough public appeal, admitted the organisers.

They want the city of Würzburg to hand out more cash.

Norbert Westenrieder is the inspiration behind the festival and himself a film-maker.

He says that this sort of festival needs about 10 years to become established.

"Unless the city gives us a hand now and helps us weather the next two years, we will have reached the end of the road," he says.

The annual cost is between DM25,000, and DM30,000, but the city's contribution had been little, apart from a few encouraging words in the programme by the mayor.

Westenrieder says: "Three or four sold-out performances would be enough to put us back on our feet financially."

This year's programme was certainly luckless. There were eight Yugoslav films — most very recent — plus three films by the Italian director Gillo Pontecorvo and two by the Frenchman Jean-Louis Comolli.

This was augmented by three films by young German directors — if Tabori's *Frohes Fest* (Happy Holiday) can be included in this category — and one of the rarities of the early days of cinema.

Almost all directors, except Tabori and a few Yugoslavs, attended the festival to discuss their works with the viewers. This close contact between film makers and aficionados is one of the specialities of the Würzburg weekend.

Concentrating on one country or a review of the works of a single director has proved effective until now.

In its initial years, the privately organised festival placed its emphasis on young German directors, among them Wim Wenders, Werner Herzog and George Moors.

Then there was the much noted weekend presenting Polish directors such as Krzysztof Zanussi, Antoni Krauze, Kazimierz Kurtz and Janusz Morgenstern whose works have since caused controversy on television.

In 1978, it was the Frenchman René Allio who came to Würzburg, followed in 1979 by the celebrated Italian brothers Taviani. Last year it was Maurice Pialat, whom the International Film Guide 1982 elected one of the "five directors of the year."

So the Würzburg organisers have always had a good nose. But what use is a good nose when the Würzburg public



prefers to stare at the TV screen rather than sit in a comfortable cinema chair — this is particularly so when the film version of a work of literature is being televised.

Yugoslav cinema is still seen as concentrating on the liberation struggle, with much melancholy drama, or on folklore comedies that do not go down in this country. This may not be a justified attitude.

But in the past few years, a kind of "author's film" has emerged in Yugoslavia; and its eight to ten productions a year now play a major role in Yugoslavia's film industry.

Most of these films deal critically with the past or the present and try to get away from the monumental or comical approach of the early days.

"30 to 40 of the films made in the past ten years are of international standard," says Vratoslav Mimica, one of Yugoslavia's elder film makers whose historic parable "The Falcon" (1980) was shown in Würzburg this year.

Parables are very popular in Yugoslavia — perhaps because explosive topical subjects can thus be defused or perhaps because Yugoslav film makers are reluctant to touch on certain (imagined?) taboos.

"The author's film is absolutely free; but there is a certain unconscious self-censorship at work in the author's mind.

There is a conspicuous darkness in the photography from the very beginning, and the cool, greyish-blue air over Berlin makes the viewer shiver.

The very streets and rows of houses make an unhealthy, sickly impression. It is not surprising that the people who live in the city get sick.

This is the underlying idea of Helma Sanders-Brahms, who bases her latest film, *Die Berühmte* (The Touched One) on the notes of a schizophrenic woman. Without resorting to the detour via a film script, she converts events into scenic impressions. The tools of expression shift from stylising to realism.

She probably hoped that this would lend her film an air of general applicability.

But can the destiny of an outsider ever lay claim to being applicable to mankind as a whole?

Can a woman whose psychological illness remains unexplained really shoulder the suffering of mankind?

Too little is said in the film about the woman's background and her life to date. Yet only this could serve as an explanation for her illness.

Suddenly she is seen aimlessly wandering through Berlin, a city without detectable quality of life. She does not come upon Samaritans who would lend a helping hand and make her well again. Ultimately, she only meets with lack of understanding — at home, in the street and in hospital.

And when, understandably, she tries to escape from the mental institution, she is soon found and brought back. The vicious circle starts anew. This is no

Perhaps this is a problem that applies to any society or individual," says Mimica.

The organisers did not seize upon their star guest Gillo Pontecorvo until the very last moment — and even then more out of necessity than choice.

Originally, they wanted to show Bertolucci, who was actually prepared to come because the Würzburg festival has a considerable attraction for film makers. They can discuss their work with the public and so test the response of those who ultimately matter.

But his producer opposed Bertolucci's going to Würzburg because this would not have fitted into the concept of a public relations tour he had in mind. In terms of public relations, Würzburg has never been particularly productive.

Bertolucci declined the invitation four weeks before the festival opened and the organisers had to start searching for a replacement. They wanted another Italian and somebody who had made a name for himself with political thrillers.

So they thought of Pontecorvo — a lively and witty conversationalist who has made only five films in his 20-year career.

He says: "One of my weaknesses is that I have too many scruples and never manage to bring an uncertain idea to fruition."

In the end, the organisers decided to show a Pontecorvo retrospective.

But this is where the problems began. It was impossible to find a copy of the first full-length Pontecorvo film *La grande strada azzurra* (1958) nor was there a copy of *Kapo* (1960) to be

found. This film depicts the uprising of concentration camp inmates in the Third Reich.

The Battle of Algiers (1966), which was awarded the Golden Lion at Venice and an Oscar, was shown in such poor technical quality as to make it impossible to know which peculiarities of the photography were attributable to the dilapidated copy and which were intentional.

Although a dubbed German version of *Operazione Ogro* (1979) was available, the distributors were only prepared to provide the original Italian version.

Only *Quelmadra* (1969) was screened in favourable conditions though in a very late show.

Pontecorvo is particularly interested in man's suffering and his desperate struggle for freedom and human dignity. As a result, he has of necessity picked on political subjects time and again.

Though the political thriller genre has long tradition in Italy, nobody sticks close to reality and gives so little scope to fantasy as Pontecorvo.

All his films revolve around the struggle of a people for independence, terror and counter-terror, the uprising of the masses and frequently around the resistance of the individual or the legitimacy and perversion of power.

In his *Battle of Algiers*, an epic of the Algerian freedom struggle that is still topical, Pontecorvo strives for a "symphonic structure of sound and picture."

Some of the photography resembles newsreel pictures. The director says this is deliberate. Some crowd scenes are reminiscent of Eisenstein films and there is a constant change of rhythm.

The music, composed and selected by Ennio Morricone and Pontecorvo, distorts scenes of brutality and dramatises visually quiet sequences, conveying the pulsating life of individual settings.

This film in particular shows the great

Continued on page 15

In search of something — somewhere

way of achieving a cure; but then, it is not a cure that Helma Sanders-Brahms' film tries to depict.

Instead, the director observes the women's wanderings through the city, the aimless encounters with men which the sick woman, a nymphomaniac, seeks.

She, who considers herself a chosen one, prefers old men, foreign workers and African asylum seekers living in slums and is an easy prey for followers of religious sects who shout their hallucinations.

The woman is constantly in search of something without knowing what.

In danger of committing suicide and repulsive, she tends towards exhibitionism. Occasionally, she also pounds the pavement as a prostitute, willing to regard every man as Jesus.

Helma Sanders-Brahms make the woman step out of her anonymity into the seamy side of the city, where she is presented as an enchanted and frightened creature... wounded and crazy.

But the film says nothing about how she became so. Though her old and helpless parents are shown in their home as well-to-do people (there is something contrived about the fact that these scenes present

the stock exchange quotations on radio as a contrast), there are no scenes depicting the woman's past. In other words, the key to the young woman's psyche is missing.

What the film depicts is not a woman trying to understand her psychological disorder but mental illness as the ultimate symbol of an allegedly sick era.

But even here this is shown by outward appearances such as dilapidated facades, seamy streets or the proletarian rush of a metropolis or isolated foreigners. All this is meant to demonstrate the decay of a society.

But this depressing outward plane of the film, which is interrupted and commented time and again by pictures, nightmares, provides the backdrop to the woman's fearful life which Elisabeth Stepanek endows with an aura of desperate depression as well as vibrant euphoria despite the fact that the woman has been cast in a mould that permits virtually no leeway.

Yet it is here and in the photographs of Thomas Mauch that the strength of this film lies — a film that has proved incapable of developing the imagery of illness. Instead, it has converted the forces of a sick imagination into symbolic reality.

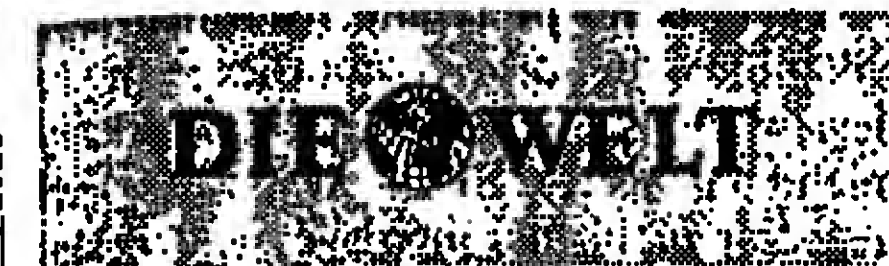
So how Lothar Lambert's sick Beauty in his *Alptraumfrau* (Nightmare Woman) is followed by Helma Sanders-Brahms' deranged Rita G.: Two autistic destinies, two destroyed lives.

The point is that the untouchable "touched one" also leaves many of the viewers untouched.

Volker Bött
(Der Tagesspiegel, 3 December 1981)

■ MEDICINE

New diabetes drug on the testbed



Bayer, the Leverkusen chemicals giant, is testing a new drug designed to relieve diabetes.

The drug, called acarbose, is an enzyme inhibitor. The company feels it could prove to be a major departure in treating the disease.

The three mainstays of treatment have long been a special diet, insulin and sulphonyl urea. Acarbose could be the No. 4.

These classic approaches may not have changed fundamentally, but they have been refined to cope better with what is a complex metabolic imbalance. Therapeutic methods have also been improved.

The aim of diabetes treatment is to reduce the patient's blood sugar count as nearly as possible to that of a normal healthy person.

This is the only way in which later complications in the capillary arteries can be prevented, complications that can often have a dramatic effect on eyes, kidneys and legs.

Yet treating diabetes is still often a problem and the results are frequently unsatisfactory.

There are many reasons why. They depend both on the seriousness of the complaint and on the patient's willingness to obey medical instructions.

Patients often fail to stick to the strict diet prescribed, and this is one problem the new Bayer drug may help to solve.

Acarbose inhibits alpha glucosidase, an enzyme that breaks down carbohydrates in the lining of the small intestine, reducing and slowing down glucose intake from food.

Carbohydrates in the food we eat are 80 to 90 per cent starch and saccharose, or cane sugar. As a rule about 250 grams of carbohydrates need to be broken down in the intestine daily.

Saccharose consists of two sugar mo-

lecules, starch of a much larger number. In the intestine they are broken down into glucose, which consists of a single molecule.

Only as glucose can they be assimilated by the blood and put to use by the body. Since acarbose inhibits the conversion process, correspondingly less glucose is fed to the blood.

Acarbose was discovered in a systematic search. It had long been known that enzyme inhibitors occur naturally in flora, fauna and micro-organisms.

Acarbose was identified in the Bayer laboratories from among the products of metabolism of the ray fungus as a particularly effective inhibitor of alpha glucosidase in the human intestine.

It is thus one of the many products secreted by micro-organisms; others include antibiotics. So one may reasonably hope to see more biochemically interesting agents hailing from this source.

Clinical tests carried out so far indicate that acarbose is useful both with patients who rely on insulin and with elderly diabetics.

The latter are not chronic cases who need insulin. They merely have to stick to a diet and take a course of sulphonyl urea treatment.

Acarbose, by reducing and delaying glucose intake, has the same effect as a strict diet, so it will help to offset the ill-effects of a diet partly ignored by an elderly patient.

It is not a substitute for a diet, but it may also intensify the effect of sulphonyl urea treatment and prevent or delay the need for insulin treatment.

Insulin diabetics, usually younger patients, frequently need less insulin when acarbose is also administered.

Another advantage is that sudden increases in blood sugar after meals are reduced in intensity, which is a must if after-effects later in life are to be avoided.

Initial findings indicate that the side-effects, while irksome, are not such as to necessitate abandoning a course of acarbose treatment.

Once a harmless parasite — now a killer

• metabolic disorders and impaired organic functions,

• and large-dose and long-term antibiotic therapy.

The Freiburg mycologists said these factors must be seen jointly, since doctors tended to prescribe antibiotics as a cure-all.

This particularly applied to the colon and to colonic infection by the candida and torulopsis fungi the colon hosts.

Drug manufacturers had developed medication to deal with internal mycoses, or cases of fungus poisoning, but doctors were far from happy with them.

Antimycotics had no fewer undesirable and often uncontrollable side-effects than antibiotics, of vital importance though they otherwise were.

• vitiating basic illnesses such as chronic infections,

They are due to the main effects of the substance. Carbohydrates that are not broken down in the small intestine find their way into the colon.

There they are broken down by bacteria into fatty acids, hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

The fatty acids are assimilated by the blood, thereby ensuring that carbohydrate energy does not go to waste. The hydrogen is exhaled via the lungs.

The carbon dioxide causes less pleasant side-effects such as flatulence and occasionally even diarrhoea.

Acarbose also seems to be effective in treating high blood fat counts. After a lengthy course of treatment the triglycerides in the blood decline in number, depending as they do on the supply of carbohydrates.

Research scientists are currently checking whether the drug might also be useful in treating overweight.

Angela Heck

(Die Welt, 5 December 1981)

Breakthrough in cot death research

Bochum scientists may have found the answer to cot death, the sudden asphyxia that kills 2,000 babies a year in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Physiologists, anatomists, mathematicians and engineers have joined forces at Bochum University to draw up a model to account for this fatal shortage of breath.

Their findings have been used at a Munich children's hospital to successfully treat a three-month-old baby.

Professor Marianne E. Schlaefke of Bochum, who has carried out experiments with laboratory animals since 1964, says control feeders in the brain check the acidity of the fluid surrounding the nerve cells.

She is also supervising the clinical trials in Munich and explains that the "information gleaned in this way has a crucial effect on the night-time breathing cycle."

Some babies lack these feeders; others have theirs temporarily put out of action by minor ailments and slight fever.

In conjunction with engineers Profes-

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Contraception through diet control

An Aachen research team is developing a method of birth control involving diet.

The researchers think that contraception by this method, avoiding certain foods, might even be acceptable to the Vatican.

World Health Organisation officials are checking regularly, and with growing urgency, on the experiments.

Head of the team is anatomist Hans-Werner Denker.

Success would mean that he team had found a solution to one of the world's most pressing problems, population growth in the Third World.

Professor Denker and his associates have been probing a secret of procreation for the past 15 years. It is what makes a fertilised ovum settle down in the wall of the uterus.

Conversely, why is that it sometimes fails to do so and that some women are permanently sterile as a result?

In laboratory experiments with rabbits he has shown that enzymes control the process, special proteins that govern chemical reactions in the body, such as digestion.

There is a special enzyme in charge of each reaction. Aachen scientists have checked the process by which the ovum is found a home in the wall of the uterus.

If specific enzymes were inhibited, the process was aborted and the rabbits failed to become pregnant. "Enzymes ensure that nutrients are drawn off," Professor Denker explains.

The crucial discovery was that signal substances prompt the mother-to-be's body to prepare to host the fertilised ovum.

Unless the signal is given, the ovum will fail to take root because preparations have not been made by the body.

American scientists plan to synthesise blastolemmase, the enzyme that gives the body the tip-off, as discovered by Denker in Aachen, by genetic manipulation.

All methods of contraception so far known have their problems. They are either too unsafe or too complicated or affect the body's hormone balance (as, for instance, the Pill does).

The contraceptive pill is felt to be unsuitable for use in the overpopulated Third World countries because experience has shown that women with little education fail to grasp that it must be taken regularly to work.

If proteinase inhibitors successfully prevent the creation of the enzyme that makes it possible for the ovum to settle in the wall of the uterus, a new method of birth control without side-effects would have been devised.

Contraception by means of a specific diet steering clear of certain foodstuffs is a method that might even be acceptable to the Vatican.

Research urgently needs to be intensified, but funds are strictly limited. "We are only getting 50 per cent of the allocations applied for," says Professor Denker.

Further laboratory experiments were due to be carried out with monkeys in Aachen, but for the time being research has ground to a halt for lack of funds.

Horst Zimmermann

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 December 1981)

■ CHILDREN

Illicit trade eases way for parents to abandon adopted babies

Babies illegally adopted from the Third World are being abandoned in increasing numbers like unwanted pets by rogue German foster parents.

By one estimate about 1,000 babies a year are smuggled into the Federal Republic, mainly from Sri Lanka, India and South American countries.

The problem stems from insufficient supply in Germany: about 19,000 couples are in the market for about 10,000 babies.

So a Third World baby is an answer. But the parents often end up dealing with unregistered agencies.

This means that:

- Children can be obtained with a minimum of paperwork
- Checks on parents are often superficial.

And the result is that more and more parents are simply changing their minds about the adopted child once the initial enthusiasm has worn off.

The authorities say the under-the-counter traffic is increasing.

One example is given by Pro Infante, a children's society.

A three-year-old girl from Sri Lanka deposited at their office in Kempen, Rhineland, had been smuggled without adoption papers into south Germany 10 months before.

She did not officially exist in Germany. She was registered neither at the local authority youth office nor at the civil registration office.

The girl's German "father" brought her to the office and asked if Pro Infante could ship her back home.

His curt explanation was that the couple was just "not getting on" with the child.

The Kempen office can quote five similar stories this year.

To begin with says Pro Infante, the children delight their unofficial foster-parents. Then the morning-after feeling sets in and the couple start to feel that maybe they have made a mistake.

The GZA, or joint central adoption service for north Germany, in Hamburg, was beset for a while by a trio of South American children whose temporary parents had tired of them after a mere three months.

In Flensburg a Korean child found a new home in a school-cum-children's home after a short stay with a German family.

How do these hapless children from all over the world get to Germany in the first place and why is it there are so many of them that the Family Affairs Ministry in Bonn has considered legislation to stem the tide?

During the post-war baby boom, which peaked in the 60s, German couples had their hands full with children of their own.

Since the advent of the contraceptive pill and legal abortion babies have been fewer and further between.

After complicated tests to single out suitable applicants, and a wait of three to five years, parents often end up with a problem child that needs intensive educational care.

So many couples who would like to adopt a baby are taken by the idea of taking a tiny tot from the Third World. They end up dealing with unregistered agencies.



Pro Infante, Terre des Hommes and the International Social Service in Frankfurt feel adopting foreign children is a makeshift solution at best.

Their aim is to find parents for children, not the other way round, and they feel their first concern must be to solve domestic problems as well as they can.

When a foreign baby is officially imported, as it were, its parents are first given a thorough check by the German authorities.

They have to fill in a questionnaire explaining why they want to adopt the child. The youth and health authorities check the family and its health.

The couple have to submit a police certificate of good conduct, thereby proving they do not have a criminal record. They are finally interviewed by a psychologist.

Once they have taken delivery of their child they have to register it with the authorities and then adopt it in accordance with German law.

Maybe it's because of the complicated procedures. Maybe it's because there is such a long wait. Maybe it's because there is a risk of not being given permission to adopt a child at all.

Whatever the reason, many couples skip time-wasting inquiries in Kempen or Frankfurt and set about making private inquiries of their own.

For some years a variety of Dutch organisations have promised to deliver a child for adoption promptly.

They are no longer able to do so for clients in Holland because the Dutch Justice Minister now refuses to consent to children being flown in for adoption.

So they have switched their attention to would-be parents in neighbouring Germany. One such organisation is Flash, short for Foundation Life, Adoption, Service and Happiness, in Groenbeek.

Flash send on request a 12-page leaflet explaining that the children they supply for adoption are usually babies aged between a fortnight and two months from Sri Lanka.

They are most unlike the German authorities in not probing too deeply

into the circumstances of the would-be parents. Not for a moment do they seem to be troubled by suspicions that would-be parents might be unsuitable.

They may insist on an adoption permit and youth department report being forwarded, but Flash generously agree not to insist on a personal interview if their clients cannot be bothered travelling to Holland.

The main country from which children are flown out is Indonesia, followed by Sri Lanka, where formalities are, as the term indicates, a mere formality.

The parents-to-be have to fly out and be interviewed by a commissioner, but Flash reassure clients that mere generalities are discussed.

About a fortnight later the court proceedings are held. They seldom take longer than a few minutes. The parents-to-be are then handed over the baby and its papers.

Clients are advised how important it is to make a good impression. Would they please pack a suit, shirt and tie and a good dress along with their bathing kit?

At the youth office and at court great store is set by your outward appearance, parents-to-be are reminded.

The whole procedure is combined with a swimming and sightseeing holiday lasting several weeks, in the course of which occasional visits are paid to the lawyer's to take a look at the baby.

Clients are reminded to take nappies and a bottle with them. To gain a little emotional experience of parenthood before the court hearing the baby can be bottle-fed and have its nappy changed at the lawyer's office.

But they must please not overdo the procedure. Adoption is a sensitive topic in the Third World, where children are not willingly handed over to parents from other countries.

Flash explains that clients, if they happen to be asked what they are doing in the country, would be well advised just to say they are tourists.

The entire procedure is said to cost up to DM18,000 and the word profit is gingerly mentioned in a bid to disarm doubters.

Clients are assured that any profits are ploughed back into the many children's

Cot death breakthrough

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soer Schlaefke has developed a device that can be used to teach infants to breathe while asleep.

This objective can only be achieved provided the body learns to respond to acid signals. So the device feeds a supply of carbonic acid into the baby's oesophagus in the desired respiratory rhythm.

In problem cases this alone will not induce respiration. Breathing is brought about by a slight breath of fresh air that is directed at the sleeping baby without waking it.

Once nocturnal respiration training has succeeded, the breath of fresh air can be stopped, since the body now responds to the carbonic acid by inhaling.

Baby has then learnt how to breathe

in its sleep, which it was previously unable to do.

This is because the acid count around its nerve cells is now measured and breathing can, as a result, be controlled normally.

Professor Schlaefke feels the successful trials with the Munich baby, which is shortly to be followed by four more in Munich and Essen, prove that a cure may be found in all cases before long.

It is not yet clear how long babies take to learn nocturnal respiration by the new method, but initial results indicate that training must begin as soon as possible after birth and last several months at least.

Thomas Brey
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 November 1981)

homes in Sri Lanka and other developing countries.

The German authorities are unmoved by the prices Dutch agencies charge. What worries them is the way in which German adoption regulations are flouted.

The result is that parents who live of their adopted children can send them back with virtual impunity.

There is no procedure by which legal adoptions in other countries can be legalised in Germany, so Flash recommend clients to check with their local registrar of births, marriages and deaths whether their adoption can be acknowledged.

If not, would they please start adoption proceedings? Not many do. The authorities often first get to know of the children's existence when they are no longer a wanted baby, just a problem child.

Often the would-be parents who use the services of a Dutch agency have been rejected by the German authorities as suitable foster-parents.

By and large, Flash write, everyone who has the necessary paperwork and is under 40 is qualified to bring up children.

But despite initial good will many families feel overtaxed by the needs and requirements of the children with which they have suddenly been confronted and left to their own devices to cope with.

The most convenient solution from their point of view is to return the child.

Rush them to doctor, urges agency

Another problem is the health hazard Flash advise parents-to-be to have their babies checked for infectious diseases when they get back home.

But by the time they get to a doctor's surgery in Germany it may be too late. One little girl from Sri Lanka, for instance, died only a fortnight after arriving in Hamburg. She was suffering from a tropical disease.

An Indian boy gave all five children of his new parents jaundice. A two-and-a-half-year-old Filipino boy was found on arriving in Germany to be deaf. A Nepalese girl was suddenly found to have polio.

What is one to do about a trade such as this which has got out of hand? There has been no shortage of proposals but action has yet to be taken.

The German authorities and adoptive societies are thinking in terms of bilateral agreements with the countries concerned. Adoption proceedings would only be allowed to go ahead in a country of origin provided a German certificate was submitted to prove the would-be parents were suitable.

Another option would be to check babies when they enter the country, as done in Holland, and to arrange a legal facility in Germany for adoption arrangements abroad to be legalised here.

The Family Affairs Ministry in Bonn agrees that procedures must be brought under control so as to protect the parents and children.

Antje Huber, the Minister, is not sure what necessary legal steps must be taken. All she has done so far is to talk with the Justice Minister to see what view of the adoption problem is.

He too feels a solution must be found, so next year there will at least be talks about a possible amendment to the Adoption Act.

Petra Pluwaitsch
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 December 1981)

■ SOCIETY

There's no running away from it - it's poriomania



As recently as the 60s youngsters who ran away from home were felt to be motivated by an irresistible wanderlust. The term poriomania was coined.

Nowadays, Jordan and Trauernicht write in *Ausreisser und Trebänger* (Absconders and Runaways), published by Juventa Verlag, Munich, this theory is dismissed as outdated.

Whatever the motives, the problem is a serious one. No-one knows the exact number of young people on the run; between 40,000 and 100,000 are reported missing at any one time.

Experts reckon there must be about 6,000 permanent runaways, including many girls. What makes children and juveniles leave home and live in a half-world between prostitution and crime?

The wanderlust is no longer felt to be prompted by the smell of a wood fire or a sudden childhood memory. Sociologists now attribute it to a disturbed relationship with one's environment.

They see cramped conditions at home, tension in the family or difficulties at school setting up an atmosphere where juveniles feel so threatening and unbearable that running away is the only answer.

"At home with my parents I was fine," says one 17-year-old girl runaway. "My father was always quarrelling with my mother and left for Italy. He wanted to get away from it all."

"My mother already had another man-friend. There was another child too, my little sister. She was one year old. There were some quarrels in the family in those days."

"My mother kept having different men-friends. Then I was sent to my granny's. But I only stayed with her six months, then it was back to my mother."

"She used to lock me in for days on end, tying me to the bedpost and not coming back for days and nights."

Small wonder she decided to quit. But most runaways clear out of children's homes. They are disappointed with the

loveless way in which they are merely administered there.

The most frequent motives that prompt them to decamp are fear of being transferred to another home, the search for nearness and a feeling of belonging to someone or simple fear of other kids in the home.

"At St Martin's," another 17-year-old girl says, "I was put with the reception group. They took away my handbag with my cigarettes, pictures of boys, letters, cigarette lighter, sewing kit and glue."

"I had to sign for everything, then it was all locked away. It was lights out at nine, and the doors were locked; even the keyholes were shuttered from inside."

"So were the windows. If you had to go to the toilet there was a pot under the bed, and a roll of toilet paper."

To this day social workers who deal with youngsters like these have nothing to offer but helplessness and the use of force. Runaways are returned to their families or homes once caught.

Children from nominally intact families, from established homes or from boarding schools are classified merely as difficult or down and out.

In many cases parents underwrite their children's lives in the runaway's world. They give them money to avoid the children getting a criminal record, provide them with other things to do or put them into expensive boarding schools.

But the overwhelming majority of runaways from the less privileged classes end up in homes for juvenile delinquents that are little more than dossing houses.

The youngsters may be cared for but they are also, for the most part locked in. In circumstances such as these social work is virtually impossible.

"They sent me to this youth care centre. I was a week there. Wasn't bad. Mind you, you had to sit in all day, behind bars. There was no way of breaking out; I tried hard enough."

"But you had to wear pyjamas all day, weren't allowed to wear anything else. You hadn't got anything else to wear anyway. They took everything off you, absolutely everything."

Attempts to provide homeless run-

Charge it to my credit account, says a 14-year-old girl grandly to a classmate at school in Hildesheim, near Hannover.

He is playing shop assistant. She is supposed to be buying from him a pullover worth DM79.90. It is part of the lesson on consumer behaviour and handling money.

The aim of the course, the first of its kind at a German school, is to check whether a start can be made at preventing crime at school.

"Deviant behaviour that may lead to crime is often due to inability to handle or solve conflicts and problems," says educationalist Hedwig Lerchenmüller.

"This programme of social learning is intended to prevent and eliminate such deficits in socialisation before it comes to crime."

The basic idea behind the programme was devised, and the course is super-

ways with more than virtual prisons have frequently failed. Plans to house stranded youngsters in open homes or shared apartments for long-term care and attention proved too much for both social workers and their charges.

Yet the situation has improved substantially in many places in recent years. A voluntary service in West Berlin has helped a fair number of youngsters by showing confidence in them.

They are given an opportunity of making use of their rights (material assistance, time for talks and information, welfare).

They are allowed to make decisions and moves of their own and offered practice at running their own affairs, cooperation and solidarity. They are also told what opportunities there are of gaining educational and vocational qualifications.

Reintegrating runaways without destroying them psychosomatically calls for intensive personal care in each individual case.

It needs ample funds, well-trained social workers, an informed and impartial public opinion and courts that realise youngsters in this position cannot be brought back into the mainstream of society by a short, sharp shock.

Thilo Castner

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 5 December 1981)

Film festival

Continued from page 12

importance Pontecorvo attributes to the music in his movies.

He says: "As I drive to the studio in the morning I am frequently plagued by doubts about how to continue my work. But once I have a melody in my head everything goes easier, the camera angles, the scenes and everything else."

Pontecorvo's last film, *Operazione Odra*, concentrates on the Basque freedom movement and the spectacular attack on Luis Carrero Blanco in December 1973.

Pontecorvo does not restrict himself to suspenseful reporting of historic facts. He delves deeply into the question as to the justification of terror in general. The showing of the film in Spain provoked a spate of bomb threats.

As usual, the organisers presented some highly explosive films.

But this still did little for the box office.

Eva-Suzanne Bayer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 December 1981)

How to cope in 40 easy lessons

vised, by the Lower Saxon Criminological Research Institute.

The course consists of 40 lessons. It entails three specially trained educationalists working alongside the regular school teachers in practising what, for youngsters of 14, are typical everyday situations.

The research institute is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The situations acted out range from arguments with others of their age to relations with adults and the repercussions of a criminal offence, in this case shoplifting.

The mass media play an important

part in the young people's lives. More than 8 out of 10 said at the beginning of the project that watching TV was one of their favourite activities.

Films on TV, Frau Lerchenmüller said, tended to glorify aggression as a means of solving conflicts. The media also encouraged youngsters to consume, including drugs.

So it had been decided to pay special attention to the role of the media in the course.

Another aim is to show students how prejudice against minorities and the underprivileged occur. With so many migrant workers' children at German schools this was felt to be an important point.

The parts to be played are in short stories, radio plays, picture stories and video films. By acting them out, young people will, it is hoped, learn how to handle conflicts themselves.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 7 December 1981)

Not so good in the good old days

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The good old days of the extended family were not so good after all, Leopold Rosenmayr, a Vienna University sociologist, has told a Hamburg gathering on Perspectives of Ageing.

Modern research, Professor Rosenmayr said, has conclusively refuted the idea that in the good old days grandparents lived in harmony with the rest of the family.

Old people usually lived separately from the young, with countless disputes coming before the courts.

Grandfathers often embarked on litigation over the right to use the main entrance to the farm rather than the tradesmen's entrance.

Or they sued their progeny for the right to carry out a certain kind of work.

Old and young still do not live together as a rule, but in 60 to 70 per cent of cases they can reach and help each other when the need arises.

Hackneyed clichés of the harmonious extended family of old, with not a single clash between the generations, seemed to be as ineradicable as clichés about the modern family.

It was just not true that modern families invariably consigned their old folk to old people's homes and hospitals, said Hamburg psychiatrist Jens Brüder.

There was an ongoing trend to caring for old people within the family. Sickness too was seldom a reason for breaking up larger family units and sending the old folk packing, a survey in Nordstedt, near Hamburg, showed.

Professor Rosenmayr noted that fresh problems lurked behind this otherwise encouraging trend.

The burden of looking after older members of the family weighed mainly on the older housewife and could well do so at the entire family's expense.

That was why state and society had a duty to ease the burden women bore. Professor Rosenmayr called for welfare service support to help granny go to the doctor's when mum was unable to go along with her.

Women of 40 or so must not become the slaves of the family, he said, although they often were just that these days.

Tax incentives to look after the elderly ought also be extended, just as it was fiscally rewarding to bring up children.

Herta Just of Hamburg Old People's Council took a dim view of shared apartments for the old. She was critical of the attitude taken by many doctors towards their older patients.

Doctors had too little time, patients were seldom visited in their own homes these days. Often doctors were just not competent to deal with the problem, given that 60 to 70 per cent of illnesses in old age were not just physical.

It was not enough to go to the usual specialist. Gerontological research findings needed to be put more into practice.

The gathering agreed wholeheartedly with what Frau Just had to say. Two thousand doctors from Hamburg and environs were invited; only 150 or so attended.

dpa
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 December 1981)